

Do we really want to devalue the votes cast by legally registered American citizens? I think not. Our opponents on the other side of the aisle should welcome this investigation if they truly believe that their candidate won fair and square. The truth must be allowed to come out.

#### GETTING BUREAUCRACY OUT OF THE CLASSROOM

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, recently a teacher in Camden County, GA told me about going to a conference near the State capitol designed to tell teachers not to hug kids anymore and not to be in the room alone with them anymore, never to touch them. She says, "You know, it's too bad because in the school district that I'm in, a lot of these children are from broken homes and they need hugging more than they need A's."

Another teacher told me she cannot get parents to participate in the PTA programs anymore because when parents come up with good ideas, they just cannot get through the red tape. Then another teacher in Darien, Georgia told me that she has to spend 2 to 3 hours each week on paperwork just to keep up with the bureaucracy.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we need to have more local control of school systems. We are going to vote today on a charter school bill which will give local control and get the bureaucracy out of the classroom so that the teacher can develop the relationship that is needed to teach Johnny how to read without a bunch of busybody bureaucrats from the State capitol or Washington, DC, telling them what they have to do and what they do not have to do.

#### HOUSE TO VOTE ON EDUCATION INITIATIVES

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, today and most of this week we are going to be voting on education initiatives. I want to call my colleagues' attention to what has been happening back in my home State of Minnesota. Our Governor, Arne Carlson, decided several years ago that ultimately what we need to do was empower parents and decentralize what is happening in education. The net result is in this year's legislature back in Minnesota, they passed some of the most wide-ranging tax reforms I think in any State in the Union. I am proud of that. Most parents in the State of Minnesota are proud of it as well.

What they included was tax credits and tax deductibility, making it easier for parents to send their kids to the school that they choose, not that is

chosen for them. They made it easier for them to buy equipment for their students, including computers, and so forth.

This is a giant step forward. It reinforces, I think, what we are trying to do here in Washington, what parents want and what ultimately most people know is best for children, and that is to decentralize the school system, empower parents and create school systems that serve students rather than serving bureaucracies.

#### INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE IN NEED OF REFORM

(Mr. ROGAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, Republicans in the House are committed to reforming the IRS. For weeks the White House was signaling that they were going to battle us on that issue, and they issued repeated pronouncements defending the IRS. When the White House decided this was an unsustainable political position, last week the White House decided to reverse course: The administration indicated it would join Republicans and work with us to reform the IRS. Today we see their rhetoric does not match reality. This weekend Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin said the administration disagrees with Republican calls to scrap 17,000 pages of IRS rules and regulations.

In proclaiming support for this 17,000 page monstrosity, the administration claimed it gives taxpayers "predictability." Ironically, they are right. The IRS Code is predictably too complex; it predictably favors its political friends; it predictably punishes its political enemies.

We will never have real tax reform in this country until we do away with those 17,000 pages of rules and regulations and give the taxpayers a fairer, flatter Tax Code. That is the "predictability" Americans are seeking, and it is the predictability they deserve.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, October 24, I had the pleasure of attending the wedding of my son Kevin and daughter-in-law Leslie. Consequently, I was unable to vote on rollcall votes 526 through 531.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 526; "yes" on rollcall vote 527; "yes" on rollcall No. 528; "no" on rollcall 529; "no" on rollcall No. 530; "yes" on rollcall vote 531.

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2527

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as cosponsor of H.R. 2527.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1270, NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT OF 1997

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 283 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

#### H. RES. 283

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1270) to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with section 306 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed eighty minutes, with sixty minutes equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Commerce and twenty minutes equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Resources. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Commerce now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. Points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute for failure to comply with clause 5(a) of rule XXI or section 306 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are waived. Notwithstanding clause 5(c) of rule XXIII, no amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. Points of order against the last amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules for failure to comply with clause 5(a) of rule XXI or section 306 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are waived. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be fifteen minutes. After a motion that the Committee rise has been rejected on a day, the Chairman may entertain another such motion on that day